

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the parent application.

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously submitted) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biocompatible material having a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said preformed mass having a plurality of ridges formed about its periphery.

13. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges are arranged in a parallel orientation relative to one another and wherein such ridges each define a plane that is substantially perpendicular to a central axis extending through said plug.

14. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges comprise a continuous helix that spirals about a central axis extending through said plug.

15. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges are discontinuous and are situated at discrete portions of said plug.

16. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a cylindrical shape.

17. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a polyhedral shape.

18. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein the cross-section of the distal end of said mass differs from the cross-section of the proximal end of said mass.

19. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 15, wherein said mass has a frustro-conical shape.

20. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a barb shaped cross-section.

21. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a rib shaped cross-section.

22. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug has a bore formed therein.

23. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 22, wherein bore has ridges formed on its interior surface.

24. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug is formed of laminated materials, said materials having different hardnesses.

25. (Previously submitted) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug has porous surfaces.

26-40. (Cancelled)

Respectfully submitted,
FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP


Gunther Hanke, Registration No. 32,989

200 Oceangate, Suite 1550
Long Beach, CA 90802
Tel. No: (562) 432-0453
Facsimile: (562) 435-6014
Customer No: 27629
4627.1